REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application contains claims 1 through 17. Claims 10, 11 and 14 through 17 stand withdrawn due to an election of species requirement, but are to be rejoined upon a finding that the elected group of claims is allowable. Claim 1 has been amended to require that the polymer used in the process "consists" of polyalkene selected from the group consisting of polyisobutene, polybutene and mixtures thereof, having M_n of from about 300 to 5000, and a terminal vinylidene content of at least 30%. The specification makes clear that the invention is directed to a process for thermally reacting such a polyalkene with an enophile, in the absence of halogen. The specification clearly describes PIB, free from other polymers, as the preferred materials for use in the claimed process, and all examples contain PIB as the sole polymer. Therefore, applicants submit that the specification makes clear that PIB was the preferred polyalkene and that it was further preferred that no other polymer components are mixed with the PIB. Therefore, applicants submit that specification supports the present amendment to the claim. Claim 4 was amended to take into account the amendment to claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Claims 12 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of the base claim (claim 1) and intervening claim (claim 4, as originally presented.

Claims 12 and 13 were objected to only for dependent on a rejected base claim and it was indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As claims 12 and 13 have now been so amended, applicants submit that these claims are now in allowable condition.

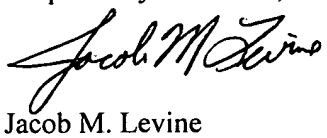
Claims 1 through 9 were rejected under 35 USC Section 102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,647,819 to Sivik et al. (hereinafter "the Sivik et al. patent"). The Sivik et al. patent is directed to carboxylic compositions prepared by reacting (a) an alpha-olefin polymer and (b) an alpha, beta-monounsaturated dicarboxylic acid or anhydride in the presence of (c) a "low molecular weight terpolymer derived from ethylene, alpha olefin and non-conjugated diene. The Sivik et al. patent teaches that the presence of the terpolymer, which is more reactive than the alpha-olefin polymer, allegedly allows the reaction to more easily occur in the absence of, or in the presence of reduced amounts of halogen. Each of Examples 3, 5 and 6 of the Sivik et al. patent describe the reaction of (a), (b) and (c) in the presence of phenothiazine, although

phenothiazine is not discussed elsewhere in the patent, and the reason for adding phenothiazine to the reaction mixture is not disclosed.

The presence of the terpolymer, as described *supra*, is an essential feature of the invention claimed in the Sivik et al. patent. Claim 1 has now been amended to expressly exclude the presence of the terpolymer of the Sivik et al. patent. Claims 2 through 9 each depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Therefore, applicants submit that the Sivik et al. patent fails to anticipate claims 1 through 9 under Section 102(b), and that claims 1 through 9 are now also in condition for allowance.

Based upon the foregoing, applicants submit that the invention now claimed is not anticipated by the cited reference. Applicants therefore request that the rejection presented under Section 102(b) be withdrawn and that the application now be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacob M. Levine
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 32,509

Infineum, USA, L.P.
Law Technology Department
1900 East Linden Avenue
P.O. Box 710
Linden, NJ 07036
(908) 474-2418